

longiori subcylindrico, in canali ad latera thoracis haud receptæ. Caput brevius, antice bifidum. Thorax angulis posticis acutis prominulis. Scutellum triangulare, postice acutum, et ad medium abdominis fere attingens. Hemelytrorum venæ fere ut in *Macrocephalis veris* dispositæ (fig. 7 b). Abdomen ovatum, planum, lateribus in medio in angulum haud productis, thorace multo latius (fig. 7 c, extremity of the female abdomen).

Sp. 1. (12.) *Macrocephalus (Hemithyreus) cylindricornis*. (n. s.)

Tab. 2, fig. 7.

Totus pallidè rufescenti-lutescens, punctatus, pedibus nonnihil pallidioribus, membrana hemelytrorum hyalina, thorace postice vix elevato, angulis posticis prominulis, acutis.

Long. corp. lin.  $5\frac{1}{2}$ .

Habitat ignotus. In Mus. Reg. Parisiis.

### III. *Description of a new Sub-Genus of Exotic Hemipterous Insects.* By J. O. WESTWOOD.

[Read 6 November, 1837.]

SINCE the last meeting of this Society,—at which I read a monograph on the genus *Macrocephalus* of Swederus, (a group distinguished by the large size of the scutellum, which entirely covers the abdomen), and in which it became necessary to establish a sub-genus upon an insect in the national museum of France, having the scutellum only extending half the length of the abdomen, and very acutely pointed at its tip—I have met with another singular group belonging to the same genus in the essential characters of the form of the body, and in the general disposition of the veins of the apical membrane of the hemelytra; but likewise differing in the small size of the scutellum, which is rounded at its tip, and which cannot be associated with the sub-genus *Oxythyreus* above mentioned. From the obtuse form of the short scutellum, which is its most characteristic distinction, it may be named subgenerically

#### AMBLYTHYREUS.

*Corpus* planum, lateribus valdè dilatatum.

*Caput* angustum, oblongum, apice bifidum, oculis lateralibus, ocellis 2 posticis.

*Antennæ* articulo 1mo crassiori, duobus proximis minutis, ultimo magno ovali.

*Prothorax* postice parum elevatus, at multum dilatatus, angulis posticis acutis porrectis, parum retro directis, dorso tricarinatus.

*Scutellum* mediocre, ad medium abdominis attingens, planum, apice rotundatum.

*Hemelytra* ad apicem abdominis attingentia, membranâ apicali maximâ venis 5 longitudinalibus, postice obliquè connexis, duabus internis ad angulum internum areolam rotundatam efficientibus. (Pl. 2, fig. 8 a.)

*Abdomen* planum, latissimum, rhombiforme, thorace duplo latius, lateribus hemelytris haud obtectis.

*Pedes* antici raptorii ut in *Macrocephalo*, at magis elongati, postici 4 breves simplices.

I do not know that any rule has hitherto been proposed for the regulation of the nomenclature of sub-genera. Is it, for instance, determined whether, in cutting up a genus into *sub-genera*, the same rule should be preserved as in cutting up an old *family-genus* into *genera*, namely, that the old *generic* name should also be still employed, *subgenerically*, for the typical sub-genus? Dr. Horsfield, in the *Lepidoptera Javanica*, and other subsequent authors, have adopted this plan, giving the typical species of *Thecla* (for instance) as forming the sub-genus "*Thecla, strictè sic dicta.*" Mr. Robert Brown has pursued a different plan. His rule is to give to the inferior groups a cognomen, introduced parenthetically between the generic and trivial names. Thus, taking his own illustration, given in the botanical appendix to the Narrative of Travels and Discoveries in Northern and Central Africa, *Cleome pentaphylla*, which is the species on which the genus was chiefly founded, but which has an æstivation so remarkable, that it might constitute a separate sub-genus, to be named *Gymnogonia*, should have its names thus expressed, *Cleome (Gymnogonia) pentaphylla*. By thus employing the sub-generic name, the principal group would be kept in view, whilst its subdivisions would be carried to the same extent, and the subordinate groups as well expressed as if they had been actually separated into distinct genera.

In this manner of treating the names it will be seen that the *typical* species of the old genus receives a subgeneric name distinct from its generic. And it is in this manner that Mr. M'Leay

has treated the nomenclature of the subgenera or types of form of the genus *Scarabæus* in the *Horæ Entomologicæ*, as thus arranged :—

#### Genus SCARABÆUS.

- Sub-Genus 1. SCARABÆUS (HELIOCANTHARUS) *Sacer*.
2. SCARABÆUS (MNEMATUM) *Ritchii*.
3. SCARABÆUS (PACHYSOMA) *Æsculapius*.
4. SCARABÆUS (GYMNOPLEURUS) *pilularius*.

It is not for me to decide upon the greater propriety of either of these plans. If the plan of Dr. Horsfield be adopted, the subgenera of *Macrocephalus* will stand thus :—

#### Genus MACROCEPHALUS.

- Sub-Genus 1. MACROCEPHALUS (STRICTE SIC DICTUS) *Cimicoides*.
2. MACROCEPHALUS (OXYTHYREUS) *Cylindricornis*.
3. MACROCEPHALUS (AMBLYTHYREUS) *Rhombiventris*.

If, on the other hand, the plan of Brown and M'Leay be retained, they will stand thus :—

#### Genus MACROCEPHALUS.

- Sub-Genus 1. MACROCEPHALUS (MACROTHYREUS) *Cimicoides*.
2. MACROCEPHALUS (OXYTHYREUS) *Cylindricornis*.
3. MACROCEPHALUS (AMBLYTHYREUS) *Rhombiventris*.

The name *Macrothyreus* being now first proposed, in allusion to the large size of the scutellum in the typical species.

Of the third of these sub-genera, I have seen but a single species, of which two specimens, in a mutilated state, are preserved in the collection of the Linnæan Society.

*Macrocephalus (Amblythyreus) rhombiventris*. (n. s.) (Pl. 2, fig. 8.)

Læte fulvo-luteus, opacus, lævis, capite supra postice et thoracis parte posticâ nigricantibus, angulis lateralibus abdominis maculâ fuscâ maculâque utrinque versus apicem, hemelytrorum membranâ fuscescenti, abdomine in medio sub alas rufescenti. Corpus totum subtus, cum pedibus, fulvo-luteum.

Long. corp. lin. 6.

Habitat — ?

In Mus. Soc. Linn. Lond.

Additional species of the last described sub-genus [1841] :—

*Macrocephalus (Amblythyrcus) quadratus.* (n. s.)

Pallidè luteo-fulvus, punctatus, capite et articulis tribus basilibus antennarum magis brunneis, concoloribus, pronoti angulis lateralibus acute productis fuscis margineque postico obscuro, abdomine angustiori quadrato, angulis lateralibus obscuris.

Long. corp. lin. 5 ; lat. abdom. lin. 3.

Habitat in India Orientali. In Mus. nostr.

Corpus subtus cum pedibus et rostro pallidè luteum, abdomine maculis nonnullis mediis carneis. Pronotum marginibus lateralibus serrulatum, angulis valde prominentibus ut in præcedente, lineâ impressâ longitudinali mediâ, alterisque duabus elevatis. Abdomen in medio sub tegmina carneum, angulis lateralibus apiceque fuscatis. Corium hemelytrorum luteum, venis ad apicem ejus carneis ; membrana parum fuscescenti, venis obscuris ; alarum vena basali externa crassa carnea.

*Macrocephalus (Amblythyrcus) angustus.* (n. s.)

Niger, thorace abdomineque angustioribus, prothoracis marginibus lateralibus fulvis, disco posticè subrufo, abdomine fulvo fasciâ mediâ nigrâ, scutello angustiori.

Long. corp. lin. 5. Lat. abdom. lin.  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .

Habitat — ? In Mus. Britann.

Pronotum marginibus lateralibus vix emarginatis serrulatis, fulvis, disco posticè subrufo ; scutellum fulvum, hemelytra fusca, membrana pallida venis nigris. Abdomen, quam in præcentibus duabus speciebus, multo angustius, fulvum, fasciâ transversâ mediâ nigrâ ; apice rufo.

Corpus subtus fulvum, capite nigro, antennis nigris, basi articuli ultimi rufescenti. Rostrum fulvum.

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